

PATENT APPLICATION

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HARDWARE  
FORWARDING OF LAN FRAMES OVER ATM NETWORKS

ABSTRACT

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A multiported LAN switch comprised of legacy local area network ports and ATM ports. Each ATM port comprising a hardware forwarding engine for bridging LAN frames from the LAN ports to the ATM port. The hardware forwarding engine converts layer 2 protocols between the dissimilar ports expediently, without requiring intervention by a microprocessor. A substantial performance gain is attained compared to microprocessor controlled format converters. Both LAN emulation and virtual LANs are supported.